

## PASTOR'S CORNER

Each of us have been influenced in our lives by the actions of others. Sometimes they are people we know personally. Other times we know them only through the media. I have been thinking about those moments and people who impacted me as a young person.

The first example happened during my 1968 confirmation into the United Methodist Church in Gibson City. I do not remember anything about the classes themselves, nor any of my classmates except one. What I remember is that the minister who confirmed me in front of the church was very professional until he reached his daughter. He broke down in tears and his voice broke as he said the words that confirmed his daughter as a member of the church universal. At that moment what was happening was important. I never forgot his passion.

My second example happened July 20, 1969. The United States landed two astronauts on the moon. It

occurred to me that Americans could do anything with the right leadership (thank you, John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson) and when enough resources are aimed at a high priority.

The third moment that influenced me as a youth was May 4, 1970. The Ohio State National Guard opened fire on protesting students, killing four and injuring nine. Two of the killed were not even protesting but were walking between classes. I learned those in government or acting for those in power do not have the training they need to carry out their duties. I learned that guns do more than kill our enemies, or a pheasant, or a clay target. They can kill people just a few years older than me if someone gives an order or if a nervous 18-year old panics under stress. I learned that if I wanted to change the world, I needed to participate peaceful, non-violent means of protest. What better way to do that than to follow Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

The last lesson of my youth that has stayed with me into adulthood was the 1972-74 Watergate break-in, cover-up, investigation, and President Nixon's resignation. An independent media that asks persistent questions acts as a counterweight to those who in government who use their power illegally to optimize their plans. Speaking truth to those in power can lead to change and justice. It can also lead to disillusionment when speaking up leads to criticism or retaliation.

Next month, I will detail some lessons of adulthood that have impacted my life.

Pastor Ray Lantz



## PRESBYTIDINGS

August 2022

Pastor Ray Lantz

Worship: 10:30 a.m.

This Newsletter is a publication of First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City IL.

Website: [www.firstpresbygibson.org](http://www.firstpresbygibson.org)

Meladee Ferguson: Administrative Assistant

Mary Clow: Ministry Coordinator

Dear FPCGC,

Below is a summary of a graduation message this last month at Dakar Academy: delivered by Robb Warfield

*Then Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?"*

Thomas Bosto: **"Christ and self are opposites, leading to completely different paths: Self is Christ's great rival in the world; and no man can serve the two masters: he must either deny himself, and go after Christ; or he will deny Christ, and go after self."**

Jesus is telling us that the normal way we will advance God's Kingdom...is denial through taking up a cross.

The Gospel rarely advances through power or promotion or achievement or riches.

What if Jesus had come and lived in a mansion and invited his disciples into a lifestyle of incredible comfort, ease, riches and power... where they were served by servants rather than required to serve...of course this is what most people would have expected...but would that have transformed the disciples hearts.

The disciples actually see and taste God's love and experience what forgiveness means when Jesus is crucified and they have all abandoned

him but he is sacrificing for them.

It is through your parents sacrifices that many of us are where we are.

So many of us now have confidence...and know we are loved and are here because when our dad came home tired from work he still got on the floor and wrestled with us and as a dad he knew he needed to engage our hearts with questions and bedtime stories.

He tucked us in bed (even when there was a sports game on that he wanted to watch) and he stayed with us in the middle of the night when we had a nightmare even though he had to get up early the next day for work, and he asked you about your day, and sure, he might have fallen asleep...that's about death leading to life.

And most moms do that and more...many stayed at home sacrificing their own careers to invest in us, and those who did work or had to work came home exhausted and often still cooked meals that there was little gratefulness for...and cleaned the house that you had made a mess or even harder, got us to clean the house which took more effort because we were not putting our heart into it, and still found the energy to care about our day...and on top of that she put up with your dad.

And both of them loved us not as helicopter parents where we were the center of the universe but poured out their lives in such a way that it was clear God was that center and so they disciplined us, said hard things to us and took away privileges even when we told them I hate you and I

wish you weren't my mom or dad and took away privileges that cost them more than they did you.

See, what makes a family successful is when each parent is dying to self.

I know not all of you have parents like that but I do want to say we all have a Savior like that.

Additionally, Christ is telling us your strength in loving others will rarely come through your accomplishment, it will come through your weakness, and through your defeats because then you will lean on Christ and depend on him and find and display his strength and his power and not your own.

So our goal for our graduates is not that you go from here and become the President of the country you're from, or a CEO, or that you make enormous amounts of money or become a famous movie star or singer.

My hope is that you are such a generous giver that it means you can't go out to eat as often or go on that dream vacation...or own the most perfect house.

I hope you give up a promotion to spend more time with your kids or spouse or aging parents.

I want to say this though...if you come with self-righteousness you cannot deny yourself...you come with I deserve...I should be liked...I must be comfortable...I should be the leader...I deserve that car, I deserve that house, I deserve a better husband or wife...and when we have these attitudes we destroy God's kingdom. (Continued on page 3.)



# August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 <i>RECYCLE</i>  <i>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook</i>
7 <i>10:30 a.m. Worship</i>  <i>Communion</i>  <i>Luke 12:32-40</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13  <i>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook</i>
14 <i>10:30 a.m. Worship</i>     <i>Luke 12:49-56</i>	15	16	17	18	19	20 <i>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook</i>  <i>RECYCLE</i>
21 <i>10:30 a.m. Worship</i>  <i>Luke 13:10-17</i>	22	23	24	25  <i>5:30 Session</i>	26	27 <i>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook</i>
28 <i>10:30 a.m. Worship</i>  <i>Luke 14:1, 7-14</i>	29 .	30	31			

Pastor Ray will be preaching on the scripture listed in bold on each Sunday.

## NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH . . .

**Please note:** The previous week’s sermon will broadcast at 7:45 a.m. every Sunday morning on WGCY. **Please note:** Online Sunday Services will be available on our Facebook Page noted below:

First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City

[https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=142499619134911&ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=142499619134911&ref=br_rs)

**Meladee’s working hours:** Meladee will be in the church office from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**Email Addresses:** As part of the hardware and software upgrade for our church’s technology, email addresses as noted below:

Pastor Ray:  
[Ray@firstpresbygibson.org](mailto:Ray@firstpresbygibson.org)  
Meladee  
[Office@firstpresbygibson.org](mailto:Office@firstpresbygibson.org).

**THE NEW FLOWER CHART IS up on the bulletin board outside of the secretary’s office.**

Recycling has returned on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. **Next Session meeting will be held on Thursday, August 25th at 5:30.**

**1. August was once the 6th month of the year. In the Roman calendar, August was known as “Sextilis”, the Latin word for 6. It wasn’t until 700 BC when January and February were added to the calendar, that August was bumped down to become the 8th month of the year.**

**2. How many days are in August? Come on, August! Make a choice! The number of days in August has changed many times. First it was 30 days. Then, 31. When January and February came onto the scene, August got reduced to 29 days. Then, Julius Caesar changed it back to 31. Thankfully it has remained that way ever since.**

**3. August has an identity crisis: While “Sextilis” does have a somewhat naughty ring to it, it was in 8 BC when it was dropped and Augustus became the official name. The month was named in honor of Augustus Caesar, the Roman emperor and adopted son of Julius Caesar. Eventually, Augustus was shortened to simply August.**

**4. No other month with the same starting day: Here is one of the more interesting August facts – in a regular year, no other month starts on the same day of the week as August. In a leap year, that other quirky month, February, will start on the same day of the week as August. It’s interesting the way the days fall within a month, isn’t it?**

**5. The underrated birthstone of August: A birthstone of the highest beauty, period. Errr, we mean peridot. Peridot is a stunning green gem that is forged in lava. While it may not be the most well known of the birthstones, its stunning range of color from electric grass to subtle olive, will make anyone green with envy.**

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES		<i>K. P. Duty</i> <i>July: Deacons</i> <i>August: Val Hunt</i>  <i>Second Sunday Offering</i> <i>July 10: Building Improvements</i> <i>August 14: Head Start</i>  <i>Ushers</i> <i>July: Jean Williams and Val Hunt</i> <i>August: Gene &amp; Mary Jane Roth</i>  <i>Communion Servers</i> <i>August 7: Mary Clow and Jean Williams</i>	
<b>August</b> <b>12: John &amp; Ruth Davis</b> <b>14: Ray &amp; Trudy Lantz</b> <b>18: Valeree Johnson</b> <b>21: Teresa Alexander</b> <b>24: Tim and Janice Swanson</b> <b>31: Sandra Brucker</b>	<b>September</b> <b>06: Allen Neubauer</b> <b>17: Gene Roth</b> <b>17: Danny Heustis</b> <b>18: Georgie Johnson</b> <b>18: Jean Jardine</b> <b>21: John Kirkpatrick</b> <b>26: Val Hunt</b> <b>26: Ted Swanson</b>	There are many strange days celebrated in the month of August, but here are a few of our favorites. August 3rd is National Watermelon Day. August 10th is National Lazy Day. Maybe our favorite, August 16th is National Roller Coaster Day. And finally, August 28th is fancy, it’s National Bow Tie Day!	
			



## THANK YOU'S

Thank you! Thank you for the \$1,000 for school, it is greatly appreciated because school is expensive. Yikes! It will be put to good use (my dad taught me well). Love, Emma Swanson

First Presbyterian Church, Thank you all so much for your generous donation. It means the world to me and anyone who struggles. Sincerely, Karen Pelumbo, BeKind/YouMatter

Dear Family of the First Presbyterian Church, Thank you so much for the scholarship awards for both the general scholarship as well as the McCormick memorial scholarship. I will use the awards for funding towards my degree at Michigan State University. I greatly appreciate your help, for it leads me to a very bright and successful future. Sincerely, Anneliese Kerchenfaut

Thank you so much for the scholarship! I am truly grateful and couldn't thank you enough. It will definitely help me focus on college instead of worrying about how I will pay for it. Braylen Kean

Dear Presbyterian Church, I cannot thank you enough for the scholarship you have awarded me for my coming years at Millikin. The money will not only help me to pay the hefty bills that come with college but it will help to set me up for a successful future. Once again, thank you so much and God bless! Sincerely, Awstace Grauer

Dear Mary and First Presbyterian Church, Thank you for the gift of money to help with insurance and a grant writer. You have been a great help in the past and are helping with the future. The association really appreciates all you have

done. Sincerely, Sharon Heavilin

First Presbyterian Church, Words cannot express our gratitude for your donations to our family. God knows our needs before we do, and is laying out our path ahead of us. We had just come home from a day of visiting with Dean, and were able to speak with his doctor as well as therapists. They had given us an idea of what he will need when he is released in the middle of August. On our way home we were discussing things we needed to get ready for him and in our mailbox was your check! Thank you for your generosity and for following His promptings. God has chosen you, all of you to be on this journey with us, and we are truly grateful! May God richly bless you! Jon and Bonnie Clark and the family of Dean Clark

Dear First Presbyterian Church Congregation, Thank you for the generous scholarship for the 2022 school year. It will be very helpful and used well this fall at ISU! Thanks again, Kellen DeSchepper

First Presbyterian Church, Thank you for choosing me to be a recipient of the General Scholarship. I appreciate this generous award and will use it towards my future at Illinois State University. Thank you again, Zander Wier

To The First Presbyterian Church: Thank you so much for selecting me for the nursing scholarship. I truly appreciate receiving this gift. This money will be very helpful as I begin my college career this fall. My family and I were very impressed with the scholarships that were awarded by your church. Sincerely, Kenley Andrae

The Gibson Girls unit of the Ford County Home and Community Education would like to thank you for your generous donation to our project "Dress A Girl." Thank you very much, Gibson Girls

The phrase is simple and the words are few, but behind them is a whole lot of appreciation. Thank you for hosting the amazing retirement party for Tim and me! It was wonderful and greatly appreciated. Love, Sharla Williams

Have you noticed the steps at the south entrance to the church? If not, take a look. Our treasurer, Phil Noellsch, has spent a lot of early mornings working on filling in the cracks. Not sure if this was in his job description, but this and his many other works around the church have not gone unnoticed. Thanks, Phil. You are appreciated!

Rick Ertel, President of the Food Pantry Board, would like to thank Session for paying for the supplies and postage that allowed Mary Clow to send out flyers announcing the Gibson City Food Pantry "Drive to 500,000" which is the number of meals they are on target to serve since their first distribution in February of 2015. Due to the increase in need because of inflation and supply chain shortages that has increased costs, they could use some financial help. Mary sent over 100 notices to various Gibson City churches and businesses as well as numerous churches and business from surrounding towns that are also served by the Food Pantry.

## ROBB WARFIELD'S ARTICLE CONTINUED

See God tells us very clearly that it is such a good thing we **do not get what we really deserve...** That all of us without him have selfish, wicked hearts that we naturally gossip, slander, lie, cheat, steal, and even murder. We all have done really horrible things and what we deserve... all of us without exception...is not rewards...we don't deserve heaven... but what we deserve is hell.

"Growth in grace is always growth downward. It is thinking of ourselves less, it is a deepening realization of our nothingness without Christ's mercy. It is a heartfelt recognition that we are not worthy of the least of God's mercies."

That no degree or job title, or athletic skill, or GPA or status makes you good...only union with Christ because of the cross...only his spirit dwelling in you gives you worth.

It is a realization while not worthy of anything God himself has given us every mercy and will give us every good gift.

And if it was given to you....and you deserve nothing....this empowers you to deny yourself. So denying yourself is a litmus test to see are you really following Christ or yourself.

Here is the irony of self denial, picking up a cross is very painful in the short run but filled with so much more joy in the long run.

God promises us it is through death to self that new life is born... that often through saying no to ourselves we say yes to love and to God. It is often by dying to ourselves that we exalt the one who made us and that is what we were made for. And we know with Jesus that his death lead to life. Jesus' death became Resurrection. This is a foundational belief of Christianity. And so if the Kingdom of God came through the cross, we all must also pick up our cross and follow him... and by doing so we will bring forth real life and love.



Avery graduated from college in the USA! We are thankful that Grandpa Warfield, Robb and Avalyn were able to attend.

Shelia, Robb's wife, turned 50 in June.



Hayden graduated from high school in Senegal!. How many kids get to have their Superintendent Dad hand them their diploma?



Avalyn showing us her scrubs as she started a hospital emergency room internship this Summer. In the Fall, she will study abroad in Dijon, France.

### EVENTS FOR WHICH WE ARE GRATEFUL

- In a surprise twist, after graduating from college, Avery found a job in Dakar and will live in the same city as us.
- Hayden will begin college in Illinois in the Fall, and will be on the volleyball team.
- We are very thankful for our parents and siblings (and their families), and we love them all very much.
- For our 3rd campus, Dakar Academy South, as we prepare for it to open for the 2022-2023 school year.

The First Presbyterian Church donated \$2,000 to their mission in Senegal.

If interested in helping you may send a donation to [www.globaloutreach.org/giving/missionary-details/robb-and-sheila-warfield](http://www.globaloutreach.org/giving/missionary-details/robb-and-sheila-warfield)



## KERCHENFAUT KIDS



Charlie Kerchenfaut of the Gibson Area Swim Team swims in the 50-meter butterfly at Milford on June 2th. (Picture by Ford County Chronicle)

Charlie placed first in the 50-meter breaststroke relay in the 13 to 14 year old class.



Addison Kerchenfaut of the Gibson Area Swim Team swims in the 50-meter freestyle at Milford on June 29th. (Picture by Ford County Chronicle.)

Addison placed first in the 200 meter medley relay in the 15 to 18 year old class.

Anneliese Kerchenfaut and friends 2022 Senior trip to New Orleans, Roatan, Belize and Cozumel included zip lining, rafting and snorkeling.



Karen Ladd reports that Larry's move to Piatt County Nursing Home in Monticello went really well. He is very happy with his room and the quality of care he is receiving. Above is a picture of Larry sitting in front of a lovely flower garden which is also the view from his window. Karen said again they appreciate all of us at First Presbyterian Church.



Karen and Larry Ladd enjoyed their last day in Gibson City fishing at Jordan Pond. Larry caught two large fish.



Karen was happy for Larry but less thrilled as she had to take the hooks out of the fish so they could be released back into the pond.

Simply Grateful for people like you. John and Barb Kirkpatrick

**JOHN AND BARB KIRKPATRICK**  
As some of you may know, John and Barb Kirkpatrick have sold their homestead and are in the process of packing and will be joining their son Colin and family in Portland, Oregon in September. Their grandchildren lives will be so enriched having them close and we can only imagine how happy John and Barb will be to be able to see them on a daily basis. Mary Clow wrote them and offered to have a Going Away Party hosted by Session and their Church Family wanting them to know how grateful we were for all they did at our church and to let them know they were loved and would be missed. Below is their response:

Hi Mary,  
Sorry it took me some time to get back to you, but we had a lot to discuss. While we appreciate the offer, we would like to respectfully decline it. Just knowing that we are thought of that way is humbling. Please send our love to everyone. Thanks, John & Barb Kirkpatrick

Session then decided to recognize their contribution to the church over the years and sent them a check for \$4,000 out of the Memorial account to help with their moving and relocation costs.

There is still time to send them a card and wish them Good







Mary Clow, on behalf of Session, put together a care package of snacks and treats that was sent to Emma Swanson to enjoy and share with her work crew while working with the Colorado Rocky Mountain Youth Corps this summer. You may send Emma a card of encouragement to 991 Captain Jack Drive, Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80487

#### MANSE UPDATE:

At the recommendation of our realtor, Teresa Boma from Angela Roderick Realty, session has approved a reduction in the asking price of the Manse to \$119,000 effective July 29th. Teresa will be holding an open house on July 30th.

*Gibson Area Music Foundation's Annual Hymn Festival* will be held August 28, beginning at 3 p.m. at the fully accessible United Methodist Church of Gibson City (Church and Tenth Streets). Admission is free and open to everyone. Milt Kelly of Fisher will talk about chosen hymns and direct singing. Special music is also planned. Plus, a free ice cream social featuring Crowridge Ice Cream will follow in the parking lot!



Addison Kerchenfaut, a member of the GCMS Interact Club, recently traveled to Channahon with the group to assist with the Friedreich's Ataxia Ride in support of Team Emily Young to support treatment of FA.



Ted Swanson and Mary Clow gave out \$25 Casey gas cards to the clients at the Gibson Area Food Pantry site in addition to the food distribution held on July 9th. The church donated \$5,000 for the gas cards to be handed out to the Food Pantry clients this summer.



To the right: Jeanette Hensley was happy to report that her niece recently found this sterling silver spoon at the family farm that has the First Presbyterian Church building and name etched on it. Jeanette feels it is something that her parents were given during their lifetime at our church.

Session recently approved the request of Jean Williams to update the landscaping around the building to improve the curb appeal and aesthetic look of the church. This involved removing all the rubber mulch around the building and replacing it with shredded bark mulch. On July 13th the work was completed by Ropp's Greenhouse. In addition, all the bushes were trimmed and new mulch was placed at the memory Garden as well.



#### JULY MISSIONS

Starting Balance June.....	\$74,000.00
John & Barb Kirkpatrick.....	\$ 4,000.00
Gabriel Anderson Saybrook Scholarship.....	\$ 1,000.00
Kemmerer Village.....	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
Ending Balance July.....	\$80,000.00





Val Hunt and great grandson Gibson City Police Officer Hunter Johnson.



Tim Swanson, Jean Williams, Mary Clow, Ted Swanson and Ron Clow (taking picture) represented our church and worked at the Gibson City Food Pantry on July 23rd.



Danny Heustis and Ron Clow removed the wooden cross this week that is put out in front of the church with spring flowers on Maundy Thursday. Then in June the flowers are replaced with flags for the 4th of July and Flag Day.



Ron Clow packing boxes for distribution to Food Pantry clients.

# Traditional Christian Hymns

## Word Search Contest

S	U	R	V	E	Y	P	D	K	F	Y	U	K	P	L
H	C	Z	K	G	H	N	I	O	W	L	P	B	I	P
N	E	S	I	R	E	N	U	L	F	O	R	V	B	F
B	D	B	A	I	G	N	I	U	A	H	E	E	G	E
G	A	E	R	I	D	K	F	F	I	S	D	C	X	R
A	T	F	S	A	G	L	A	Y	T	P	L	M	H	M
K	Y	G	T	S	L	Q	Y	O	H	L	O	R	Y	P
Y	W	I	M	E	E	W	R	J	F	N	F	W	V	S
S	O	A	W	L	Z	L	X	Q	U	M	N	J	E	D
N	J	V	X	I	Q	Q	B	R	L	T	V	G	V	R
G	T	Q	R	G	N	G	G	N	S	A	Z	K	C	
E	S	H	K	Q	O	F	V	R	E	L	Z	E	I	M
P	X	P	O	S	R	F	F	A	S	P	Q	Q	R	F
S	S	E	R	T	R	O	F	C	S	B	I	W	Z	G
U	G	Z	M	Z	U	F	K	E	Q	R	B	N	P	I

\$ 20 gift card to be awarded.

Turn the puzzle in to the church office by August 25th.

A name will be drawn and a gift card will be presented to the winner.

GOOD LUCK AND GOD BLESS!!!!!!!!!!

A Mighty FORTRESS Is Our God  
All Hail the POWER of Jesus' Name  
Amazing GRACE  
Because He LIVES  
BLESSED Assurance  
Christ the Lord Is RISEN Today  
Great Is Thy FAITHFULNESS

How GREAT Thou Art  
HOLY, Holy, Holy  
How Firm a FOUNDATION  
It Is WELL with My Soul  
JOYFUL, Joyful, We Adore Thee  
What a FRIEND We Have in Jesus  
When I SURVEY the Wondrous  
Cross

Instructions: Find and circle the words in ALL CAPS listed above. Words may be forward, backward, vertical, or diagonal within the puzzle.